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SIPDIS

AF/C FOR LISA KORTE
OES/ENRC FOR ELLEN SHAW

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GABON: COMIFAC DEMARCHE DELIVERED DEPUTY MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: 09 STATE 120278

Ambassador and DCM delivered the COMIFAC demarche December 1 to Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Jules Ogoubandja who was involved in Gabon policy discussions re COMIFAC in his previous position as director of Gabon's national parks agency and as a participant in the October meeting of CEEAC. Ogoubandja said he is aware of the importance of COMIFAC to Gabon's forestry conservation efforts and will discuss the organization's budget with other Gabonese officials. Ambassador also raised the demarche with French ambassador Jean-Didier Roisin. Roisin discussed it with France's regional forestry advisor who said he would convey U.S. interests to Paris. The forest advisor also noted that COMIFAC would be on the agenda of the December 16 meeting in Paris proposed by President Sarkozy to the Congo Basin Forest country heads of state.
REDDICK